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England. By W. G. Farlow, M.D. (B).
In Reps. U. S. Fish Commission, Washington, 1871 and 1872.

MAINE.

List of Plants noticed in the Maine woods in the years 1853 and 1857. By H. D. Thoreau. (B).
In Appendix to "Maine Woods," Boston, 1866.
*List of marine Algae collected near Eastport, Me., in August and September, 1872, in connection with the work of the U. S. Fish Commission under Prof. S. F. Baird. By Daniel C. Eaton. (B.)
In Trans. Connec. Acad. Sci. Vol. ii., New Haven, 1873.

MASSACHUSETTS.

List of the native Trees of Massachusetts, with notes upon certain naturalized species. By F. B. Hough.
In Rep. on Forestry, pp. 406-416, Washington, 1877.
†*Essex County.*
Studies of the Essex Flora; a complete enumeration of all Plants found growing naturally within the limits of Lynn and the towns adjoining. By C. M. Tracy. (B). 8vo. pamph. pp. 87. Lynn, 1856.
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Trees and Flowers of Cape Ann, by Calvin W. Pool, and of Pigeon Cove and vicinity, by Henry C. Leonard. (A). Boston. 1873.
Flora of Georgetown, Mass. By Mrs. C. N. S. Horner. (A).
Pub. in Georgetown *Advocate*, Feb. and Mar., 1876.
Flora of Essex County. (Includes Phaenogams, vascular Cryptogams, Lichens, Mosses, Hepaticae, Characeae, and marine Algae with extensive notes, and historical preface and sketch of early Essex County botanists). By John Robinson.
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Algae Rhodiaceae. A list of Rhode Island Algae. By Stephen T. Olney. (B). In Lens. Vol. i., Chicago, 1872.
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In Lens. Vol. ii., Chicago, 1873.

W. R. G.
N. L. B.

§ 10. **Botanical Notes.**—*Influence of Altitude on Colors of Flowers*—M. Gaston Bonnier, according to *La Nature*, has recently been making observations in Austria and Hungary on the modifications exhibited by the same species of plants at various altitudes, and his researches have especially been directed towards the differences shown in the coloration of flowers. A comparison of the tints of a large number of species in two, three, four and sometimes five localities of increasing altitude has shown a notable deepening of the color with the increase in height of the station. This variation was found to be remarkably pronounced in *Myosotis sylvatica*, *Campanula rotundifolia*, *Ranunculus sylvaticus*, and *Galium cruciatum*; but, on the contrary, not well shown in *Thymus Serpyllum* and *Geranium sylvati-*

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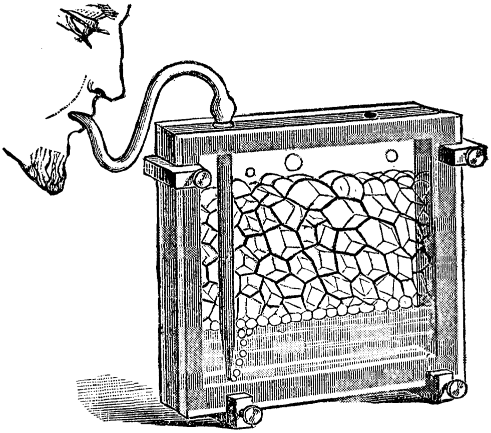
*Communicated by Mr. F. S. Collins.
† " Mr. John Robinson.

cum. In proportion as we ascend, a rosy color is quite frequently seen in such flowers as are, at lower stations, ordinarily pure white or nearly colorless, such as *Silene inflata*, *Silene rupestris*, *Bellis perennis*, etc. A microscopic examination made on the spot, in several cases, showed that the increase of color was not due to a change in the distribution of the coloring matters, but to an increase in the number of the granules of the pigment in a given surface. It has been shown that, in consequence of the purer atmosphere and the less quantity of aqueous vapor, solar radiation on mountains increases with the altitude ; and the production of coloring matters would seem to vary in the same direction. Although the amount of such variation is very different in different species, M. Bonnier has drawn from his observations the conclusion that "in the same species the coloration of flowers of equal age increases in general with the altitude, all other conditions being equal."

"*Fool's Parsley*" *not Poisonous.*—For several centuries the plant *Æthusa Cynapium*, L., has been the object of suspicion, and classed among poisons by botanists and toxicological writers. But now Dr. John Harley, of England, comes forward and presents a vindication of what he calls "an innocent and harmless plant." In the St. Thomas' Hospital Reports he relates a number of facts to prove the correctness of his conclusions. The juices of the plant, from the root as well as from the leaves, were obtained by expression just before flowering, and also after the plants had reached maturity and set fruit. Being thus provided with a supply of material representing the active properties of the plant, he exhausted it upon four patients, one a little girl 4 years old, who took the extract in quantities ranging from 2 drachms to 2 ounces; himself, who took it in quantities ranging from 2 to 4 fluid ounces; and two other adults, who were the subjects of spasmodic wry-neck. These two took one or other of the juices in doses ranging from 1 to 8 fluid ounces. Effects were anxiously looked for, but absolutely none followed in any of the cases. Dr. Harley therefore feels compelled to assert that *Æthusa Cynapium* of Sussex, Essex, Kent, Surrey and Hertfordshire is not only absolutely free from the noxious properties attributed to it, but that it is pleasant to sight, smell and taste, and, in the absence of the more fragrant and succulent plants, might well be used as a pot-herb or salad. He is satisfied further, that his conclusions are independent both of locality and season, and that the only influence which these conditions have on fool's parsley, as on hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), is to increase or diminish its succulency. Dr. Harley some years ago made some observations on the last-mentioned plant, and came to the same conclusion in regard to its innocuous nature that he has concerning that of the *Æthusa*. In connection with this it may be stated that *Conium maculatum* in northern latitudes—Russia for example—is eaten with impunity, although precaution is taken to first boil it in several waters. This subject of the harmlessness under certain conditions of plants reputed to be poisonous, recalls to mind the statement of Linnaeus, in his *Flora Lapponica*, that the Norlanders prepare from the leaves of *Aconitum Napellus* a broth, which they eat without any injurious effects resulting therefrom.

New Illustration of Cell-Formation.—Mr. D. S. Holman, of Philadelphia, has recently devised a very neat and simple apparatus, useful to teachers, whereby the method of formation of cells in vegetable structure may be conveniently shown to an audience. It consists merely of a tank formed of two pieces of plate glass, held apart at the bottom and sides by a rubber strip and kept in place by four clamps. Into this receptacle is poured a solution of soap, which is raised in bubbles by a current of air blown into it through a fine glass tube. As the bubbles are formed, their tendency to become spheres is overcome by the capillary attraction of the sides of the tank. As a natural consequence, the films extend across the tank perpendicular to the walls, and the pressure of one bubble upon another causes the formation of polygonal forms, analogous to those which we see in cross-sections of wood-fibre. The accompanying figure, which we borrow from the *Journal of the Franklin Institute*, gives an idea of the appearance presented by the tank when thus filled with bubbles, but gives no conception, it is said, of the beauty of the projection of it which may be made upon a screen. The pencil of rays passing from the condensing lens of a stereopticon is convergent; and, as a consequence, many rays fall upon the soap films at such a large incident angle that they are almost entirety reflected, and consequently are tinged with the rich colors resulting from the interference of the rays that fall on thin films. We thus have before us a proof of the tenuity of a layer which is between the limits of 1-17000th and 1-15000th of an inch—the latter limit being reached when the color of the film disappears. The same illustration also affords an exemplification of the principle (shown in Nature in the structure of the honey-comb) that the pressure of equal circles on each other produces a hexagonal structure.



Cornell University.—We learn from the daily papers that the Botanical Department of Cornell University has recently been the recipient of a gift of ten thousand dollars from the Hon. H. W. Sage, of Ithaca.